

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-01

TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 SS-15 NSC-05 L-02

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COA-01 DLOS-03 DOTE-00 FMC-01 /094 W

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AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EEC, MX

SUBJECT: EC/MEXICO: COUNCIL OKS OPENING OF NEGOTIATIONS

REF: A) EC BRUSSELS 1861

B) EC BRUSSELS 8129 (1974)

1. SUMMARY: THE EC COUNCIL (FOREIGN MINISTERS) HAS AUTHORIZED THE COMMISSION TO OPEN NEGOTIATIONS WITH MEXICO FOR A 5-YEAR, NON-PREFERENTIAL, COMMERCIAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT. TALKS WITH THE MEXICANS ARE EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN LATE APRIL FOLLOWING A VISIT TO MEXICO BY EC VICE PRESIDENT SIR CHRISTOPHER SOAMES. END SUMMARY.

2. AS REPORTED REFTEL A, THE COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS (MARCH 3-4) HAS APPROVED THE MANDATE SUBMITTED BY THE COMMISSION FOR OPENING NEGOTIATIONS ON A NON-PREFERENTIAL COMMERCIAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EC AND MEXICO. A COPY OF THE MANDATE HAS BEEN TRANSMITTED TO EUR/RPE.

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3. NEGOTIATING DIRECTIVES: THE PROPOSED ACCORD WOULD HAVE A DURATION OF FIVE YEARS WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF INVIGORATING MEXICAN-EC RELATIONS IN GENERAL AND PROMOTING ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN PARTICULAR. THE TRADE REGIME WILL COVER TARIFFS AS WELL AS NON-TARIFF QUESTIONS AND CONTAIN A) AN MFN CLAUSE, B) COMMITMENT TO MAXIMUM LIBERALIZATION OF EXPORTS AND IMPORTS, C) A CLAUSE CONCERNING TARIFF AND NON-TARIFF BARRIERS AND D) RULES OF ORIGIN. THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT WOULD PROVIDE FOR A JOINT COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EFFECTIVE FUNCTIONING OF THE ACCORD, INCLUDING THE RESOLUTION OF DIFFICULTIES PREVENTING DEVELOPMENT OF HARMONIOUS TRADE RELATIONS. THE COMMITTEE IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR GIVING EFFECT TO THE OBJECTIVE OF "COMMERCIAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION" THROUGH TRADE PROMOTION PROGRAMS, INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND ANALYTICAL SUPPORT. OTHER POINTS COVERED BY THE COMMISSION'S MANDATE CONCERN NON-DISCRIMINATION OF FLAGS IN MARITIME TRANSPORT, NON-DISCRIMINATORY ACCESS TO

MEXICAN NATURAL RESOURCES, AND PROTECTION FOR EC INVESTMENTS IN MEXICO.

4. TIMETABLE: WE SPOKE WITH COMMISSION OFFICIALS IN THE EXTERNAL RELATIONS DIRECTORATE GENERAL AND HAVE LEARNED THAT THE OPENING ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS IS EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE AT THE END OF APRIL. IF ALL GOES WELL A SECOND AND CONCLUDING ROUND WOULD FOLLOW WITHIN A FEW MONTHS.

5. FYI: SOAMES' TRAVEL: WE HAVE ALSO LEARNED FROM SOAMES' CABINET THAT HE PLANS TO TRAVEL TO MEXICO CITY IN APRIL (16-21) IN ORDER TO UNVEIL A STATUE OF HIS FATHER-IN-LAW, SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL. THE TRIP IS NOT DIRECTLY CONNECTED WITH THE NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH WILL OPEN IN BRUSSELS. IT IS VIEWED AS A USEFUL GESTURE, HOWEVER, DESIGNED TO ESTABLISH A GOOD CLIMATE FOR THE TALKS AND FOR CLOSER EC/MEXICAN RELATIONS IN GENERAL. WE HAVE ALSO LEARNED THAT SIR CHRISTOPHER WILL MAKE A MAJOR (5-6 COUNTRY) VISIT TO LATIN AMERICA, PROBABLY IN SEPTEMBER. END FYI. GREENWALD

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